

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 644
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Barry K. Thacker for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee and
to congratulate him upon receiving the 2003
Hoover Medal.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in their chosen
professions and as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Barry K. Thacker, President, Principal
Engineer and Founder of Geo/Environment Associates, Inc. and President and Founder of Coal
Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, born January 26, 1954 in Kentucky, Barry Thacker grew up in the Louisville
area, earning a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in geotechnical engineering
from the University of Louisville; he was a design engineer with Bowser-Morner, Inc. of Dayton,
Ohio from 1977-80, and worked as Vice-President and Principal Geoenvironmental Engineer at
Ogden Environmental and Energy Services Company of Oak Ridge prior to founding his present
enterprises in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thacker possesses over a quarter century of experience on multi-
disciplined geotechnical and environmental projects including waste disposal facilities,
environmental remediation projects, groundwater modeling studies, earth and rock-fill dams,
landslide repairs, foundation studies and tied-back retaining structures; he is a member of the
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Association of Members of Geoprofessional,
Environmental and Civil Engineering Firms, the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration,
Inc. and the Eastern Coal Region Restoration Roundtable, and has authored over 50 articles on
engineering, regulatory compliance and watershed restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work and activity in writing and professional organizations, Barry Thacker still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable causes as the Boy Scouts of America, Tennessee Conservation League and Clinch River Trout Unlimited; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thacker's non-profit Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc., founded "to improve the quality of life in the Coal Creek Watershed" marshaled the skills and knowledge of local residents of the watershed, college students, physicians, dentists, national, state and local government officials, Boy Scouts, ASCE members, Office of Surface Mining, Environmental Protection Agency, TVA, National Resources Conservation Services, FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other state and national organizations and volunteers to attack the varied environmental and social quality of life issues that assailed the watershed and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2003 at the ASCE Honorary Member's luncheon in Nashville, Mr. Thacker was presented the 2003 Hoover Medal "...for successfully applying his engineering judgment, skill, and ingenuity to meet the social, physical, educational and environmental needs of the people of the Appalachian Coal Creek Watershed, while, in the process, creating recognition of and admiration for the profession of engineering and the letters P.E."; and

WHEREAS, named after President Herbert Hoover, himself an engineer, the Hoover Medal was established in 1929 to commemorate the civic and humanitarian achievements of engineers; Barry Thacker is the 61st holder of that prestigious award, conferred upon engineers whose professional achievements and personal endeavors have advanced the well-being of humankind; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, in July 2000, Mr. Thacker was asked to present testimony at the Democratic National Committee Party Platform hearing in St. Louis concerning his ideas about improving water quality through solving quality of life problems; other honors include being named Water Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League in 2001, receiving the ASCE's initial Founders Award in 2002, and the Professional Award in Engineering from the University of Louisville Speed Scientific School, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Barry Thacker is in high demand as a speaker for engineering society meetings and has spoken across the country to encourage other engineers to use their professional skills to become involved in community service; in 2002 his Coal Creek Watershed Foundation received the Awards of Distinction from the East Tennessee Historical Society for excellence in the preservation, promotion and interpretation of East Tennessee History, FEMA's Model Special Projects Award for outstanding leadership and dedicated service in the field of mitigation and the development of "Disaster Resistant Communities", and the 2002 Aquatic Resource Preservation Award by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, Barry Thacker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mary and their children; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mr. Barry K. Thacker upon being named the 61st conferee of the prestigious Hoover Medal and thank him for his record of professional excellence and his dedication to the betterment of the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Barry K. Thacker for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, congratulate him upon receiving the Hoover Medal for 2003, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.